

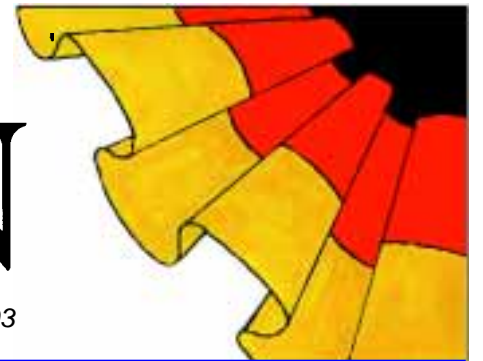


THE CITIZEN

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Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

From farewell to welcome home: Helping families deal with deployment

By Hugh C. McBride

As this edition of The Citizen went to press, the opening stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom had begun and U.S. service members were advancing into southern Iraq.

While speculating on the duration and ramifications of this operation – and others associated with the global war on terrorism – would be an exercise in futility, one fact of which we can all be certain is that deployments will continue.

While a regular component of military life, deployments will never be stress free for either the deploying individual or for those who remain behind.

However, several steps have been taken to ensure the safety and well-being of community members and families.

This edition of The Citizen contains a special two-page section focused on the various deployment-related services and programs available here in the 6th Area Support Group and around the world.

From helping children deal with separation to ensuring that the lines of communication remain open between the deployed service member and his or her families, local and national organizations have dedicated themselves to the preservation of that most essential component of military life: the family.

Among the myriad programs it offers to military families, Stuttgart's Army Community Service will be sponsoring a series of weekly lunchtime seminars on topics such as talking to your children about world events and successfully reuniting families

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at the end of deployments.

On the cyber-front, the Army has recently expanded its servicewide Army Knowledge Online e-mail and instant messaging service to include friends and family members of deployed personnel. Yearlong "guest accounts" are now available to allow families to communicate in a secure environment from virtually anywhere on the globe.

This edition also contains information on the Europe Regional Medical Command and its commitment to maintain the highest level of medical care for personnel and family members who remain in Europe.

Because many military families include "sons and daughters" of the four-legged or feathered variety, we have even included information on online organizations that link deploying individuals with "foster families" to care for their companion animals.

No one believes that programs, services or "expert advice" can take the place of intact families in peaceful environments.

Yet when our military members are called upon to temporarily leave their homes and loved ones, they can deploy with the knowledge that a community stands behind them and with their families.



Master Sgt. Bob Haskell



Shane T. McCoy



Sgt. 1st Class Isaac G. L. Freeman

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Still think that "Ausfahrt" must be the biggest city in the world? If so, a Stuttgart volunteer's free translation service on Patch Barracks may be just what the Doktor ordered.



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Women's History Month

Hidden no longer, the storied history of women's contributions to society are the focus of a month-long national observance. Turn to page 15 to find out how much you know about this topic.



The faces of deployment. [Top left] A member of the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Wing spends a few moments with family before deploying. [Top right] Lt. Robert Palmore whispers goodbye to his daughter before boarding USS George Washington to begin a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. [Bottom] Capt. Kevin Dydyk, a pilot with the 31st Fighter Wing, greets his son during a welcome-home ceremony.